

**Robert Adam to George Washington, May 17, 1774,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM ROBERT ADAM, ESQ.

ALEXANDRIA May 17th. 1774

SIR

Our Rum Petition and also one for the Inspection of herrings was forwarded to you yesterday by Post and hope it will be in time, Along with each there is a little Memorandum for your peruseall, As the greatest difficulty seems to Arise in raiseing a Sum equivalent to that now raised on Rum imported I am in great hopes that will in some measure be Obviated when the Mode now proposed is duely Considered I think it must at least Raise a Sum equall to any that has been Yearly Colected for some time past, and as the present fund is rather declineing than encreassing, it might be some encouragement for Adopting the other, which would in all probability yearly incresse, Add to this the many Advantages [that] would Arise to ye. Community from the natureall incress we might reasonably expect in the West India Trade, gives some hopes your Honourable House will judge it reasonable and make tryal of it, if only for a short time, when the Advantages of it may more Clearly appear, I wish heartly it may Succeed

The other Petition for herrings we have just hinted what we thought most essentiall, and as both Collo. West & you are well aquanted in that Branch we hope you will add any thing you think may be wanting to it and we hope if the Law is past it will be the Means of fixing the Credit of our Fishing in Potowmack River—You have also another petition which I

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have but lately heard of, that is praying an Addition to our town, The extraordinary price that Lotts have lately sold for here does very Sufficiently show the real necessity there is for an Addition, there has been within this month a Number of very respectable people tradesmen & others come here to Settle, and for want of Houses to Sett down in and the prospect of getting any part of a Lott on reasonable terms, have been Oblidged to return from whence they came, You Are very Senceable that the Success and raise of this place must be a very great Advantage to the Country around it in generall and as a Friend to both I hope you will use all your Influence to Obtain it, it is imagined by some, that it will meet with some Oposition from some of Mr John Alexanders Friends on Account of his present Melancholy Situation and his not joining in the Petition, should that be the case, and they should not incline to Include his Land in the Additions we would rather than Fail in it have an equal Number of Lotts Added to the uper part of the Town on Mr. Baldwin Dades Land who has Signed & Consented to its being done as Also Mr Carlyle & Mr. Charles Alexanders, No Advantages is intended to be taken of Mr. Alexander, Indeed the Addition will rather be against the present holders of Lotts in Alexandria as it must lessen Considerably their Value for a While, but considered as a real Benefit its generally agreed to—And hope & wish for your Friendly Assistance—

Mr. Lund Washington comunicated to me part of your letter regarding the Damage done the Wheat, There will undoubtedly be a very great & generall Loss but I have great reason to believe that it will not be so bad as its generally represented in Loudon there will be I'm told about half Crops or rather [covered by seal] this I have from Isrel Thompson & others. I do not think it will [covered by seal] Efect our present Markets in Flower And I think you had better sell your Flower as opertunitys offer at a reasonable price, but you will by this time from Information be better able to judge when you can Spare a leasure Moment I should be much Oblidged to you for a Line what Success you think our petition will meet with

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I am Most Respectfully Sir Your Most Humb: Servt. ROBERT ADAM